

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/079,067	KING ET AL.	
	Examiner LAM S. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment dated 12/29/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 16-20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas E. Erickson on 01/26/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 11: Rewritten as below:

-- 11. A printhead alignment test pattern comprising a plurality of printhead-alignment-test-pattern spaced-apart printed images at least partially aligned substantially along an axis, wherein each image includes leading and trailing edge portions having respective image-outermost leading and trailing edges spaced apart along the axis and includes an intervening portion disposed between the leading and trailing edge portions, wherein the leading and trailing edge portions have a higher print density than the intervening portion, and wherein each of the leading and trailing edge portions of one of the images has a print density in the range of substantially 75% to substantially 100% and the intervening portion of the one image has a print density in the range of substantially 25% to substantially 50%. --

Claim 15: Cancelled.

Claim 16: On first line, replaced "15" by --11--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding to claims 10, 20: The reasons for allowance was indicated in the office action dated 10/14/2005.

Regarding to claim 11: The claim is amended to incorporate the allowed feature of the original claim 15, as indicated in the office action dated 10/14/2005.

Regarding to claim 1: In light of the applicant's argument, the examiner admits that Ikeda's FIG. 5 does not teach "*a plurality of space-apart images at least partially aligned substantially along a printhead scan axis*", which is parallel to the "reading direction", wherein "*each image includes leading and trailing edge portions having respective image-outermost leading and trailing edges spaced apart along the printhead scan axis and includes an intervening portion disposed between the leading and trailing edge portions*". Ikeda' s FIG. 6, even though, teaches "*a plurality of space-apart images at least partially aligned substantially along a printhead scan axis*", which is orthogonal to the "reading direction", but does not teach "*moving a sensor along the printhead scan axis over the plurality of images*", (the sensor, instead, moves in the "READING DIRECTION", which is orthogonal to the printhead/main scanning direction as shown in FIG. 1). Furthermore, Ikeda's test pattern in FIG. 6 is arranged for the purpose of detecting the distance from image a-ref3 to each image a-V, b-V, c-V, and d-V, so if the sensor is modified to scan the images along the printhead scan axis (as in FIG. 5), Ikeda's intended purpose would not be obtained. As a result, Ikeda' s either FIG. 5 or FIG.6, alone or in combination, does not teach all claim elements cited in claim 1.

Claims 2-9, 12-14, and 16-19 are allowed because they depend directly/indirectly on claim 1 or 11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-2151. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (571)272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN
01/26/2006

Hai Pham

HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER